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2009 shuttle launch a first for 4 crew members



◆ Future Shuttle

Launch: NASA has assigned crews for the STS-127 space shuttle mission and the Expedition 19 International

Space Station mission. The STS-127 mission will deliver the final components of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Kibo laboratory to the station. Expedition 19 will double the size of the resident crew on the complex, expanding it to six people.

Mark L. Polansky will command the shuttle Endeavour for STS-127, targeted to launch in 2009. Douglas G. Hurley will serve as the pilot. Mission Specialists will be Christopher J. Cassidy, Thomas H. Marshburn, David A. Wolf and Julie Payette, who represents the Canadian Space Agency.

The mission will deliver Timothy L. Kopra to the station to join Expedition 18 as a flight engineer and science officer and return Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata to Earth. Hurley, Cassidy, Marshburn and Kopra will be making their first trips to space.

The Kibo Japanese Experiment Module Exposed Facility and Experiment Logistics Module Exposed Section will provide a type of "front porch" for experiments in the exposed environment. A robotic arm will be attached to the Kibo Pressurized Module and used to position experiments outside the station. The mission will include five spacewalks.

◆ **ISS Update:** Expedition 17 crew members Commander Sergei Volkov, Flight Engineer Oleg Kononenko and spaceflight participant So-yeon Yi

launched at 7:16 a.m. EDT Tuesday in a Soyuz TMA-12 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Less than 10 minutes later, the spacecraft reached orbit and its antennas and solar arrays were deployed. Expedition 17 will be welcomed by the Expedition 16 crew after docking to the orbiting laboratory, scheduled for today.

Volkov and Kononenko will begin a six-month stay in space. Yi will conduct experiments and photograph Earth during her nine-day visit on the complex. She will return to Earth with Expedition 16 crew members Commander Peggy Whitson and Flight Engineer Yuri Malenchenko on April 19.

■ **April Health Education Information** — Sleep disorders is the Health Education and Wellness Program topic of the month. An estimated 70 million Americans do not get enough sleep. The April HEWP packet covers common sleep disorders, the relationship of sleep and chronic disease, as well as good sleep habits. The monthly health education table will be set up from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. **today** in front of the O&C cafeteria where HEWP staff will distribute sleep information.

■ **Reminder:** The Roy D. Bridges Jr. Bridge (NASA Causeway/SR-405 over the Banana River between KSC Industrial Area and CCAFS) will remain out of service for repairs to all traffic through April 20. This closure will prevent all roadway traffic between the KSC Industrial Area and CCAFS on the NASA Causeway, **including emergency vehicles.** Roadblocks, signs, and variable

New crew arrives today at space station

message boards will be located on KSC and CCAFS major roadways during the closure. Fishing is still allowed along the causeway.

■ **NASA Science News** — Contestants in NASA's 15th Annual Great Moonbuggy Race have crossed the finish line. To learn who won, read the story at http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/07apr_moonbuggyrace.htm?list29875 to find out who crashed and who triumphed in the adventurous competition.

■ **If You Bag It - Then Tag It!** — Unidentified briefcases, gym bags, equipment bags, backpacks or similar items arouse concerns for explosive devices. To alleviate these concerns, all such items should have an identification tag. Free ID tags may be obtained at the HQ Building in the VRC Badging Office, Room 1470; the VAB F Gate Badging Station; at PIDS 3 on the NASA Causeway; at the SSPF, Room 1473; and at the USA Security Office at the PCC.

Failure to tag your property may result in its confiscation or destruction as well as causing unnecessary evacuations. Unidentified boxes or containers also arouse concerns. Please dispose of unneeded boxes or containers in authorized waste receptacles and leave items open so that passers by can see they are harmless.

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